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# Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea.



## Annual Report of the Committee for Public Libraries & Museums

for

the Year ending 31st March, 1915.







THE LATE EARL CADOGAN, K.G. (1840—1915).

*(See page 8.)*

METROPOLITAN  
BOROUGH OF CHELSEA.



Annual Report  
of the  
Committee for Public Libraries  
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the Year ending 31st March, 1915.

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MAY, 1915.

# Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea.

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## Committee for Public Libraries and Museums 1914-1915.

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COUNCILLOR F. J. WELCH (EX-MAYOR) Chairman.

The Mayor, REV. ROBERT HUDSON, M.A., J.P.

COUNCILLOR G. W. DAMAN.

COUNCILLOR T. C. E. GOFF, J.P.

ALDERMAN W. E. GORDON.

MR. JAMES FORD HUGHES,  
(Died 9th June, 1914).

COUNCILLOR E. L. MEINERTZHAGEN,  
J.P., L.C.C.

MR. PERCY C. MORRIS.

COUNCILLOR W. J. MULVEY, J.P.

MR. FOSTER W. PROCTER, J.P.

COUNCILLOR T. J. ROBINSON.

COUNCILLOR GEORGE WHITE.

COUNCILLOR MAJOR W. F. WOODS,  
J.P.

COUNCILLOR H. J. WRIGHT.

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Librarian and Clerk to the Committee :  
J. HENRY QUINN.

Sub-Librarian : ARMITAGE DENTON

Assistant : DAVID S. YOUNG.

# Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea.

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## PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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### TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1914-15.

**I**N presenting their report upon the work of the Library during the year ending 31st March, 1915, the Committee are pleased to be in a position to say that the use made of the institution has been most satisfactory when all the circumstances since the outbreak of the European War are taken into consideration.

There was every prospect that the issue of books would have been greater than that of any previous year. In the four months to the end of July the number of volumes taken out exceeded by 4,503 those of the corresponding period of the last year, which was the record year. The War, naturally, turned the public mind from study and much reading, and led to the loss of student readers, especially young men.

The total number of volumes issued in all departments was 242,748, representing, in comparison with last year, a decrease of 19,965. Even with this falling off, it will be noted by reference to Table 6 that the total has only been exceeded twice before, viz., in 1909-10 (250,549), and in 1913-14 (262,713), a highly satisfactory result under any circumstances.

#### REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

The Reference Department, as was to be expected, suffered most owing to the absence of the usual students. The total number of volumes consulted was 66,422, being 8,979 less than

last year. The daily average issue on week-days was 232. On Sundays the average number of books used was reduced from 80 to 48 per day.

The books on anatomy and sanitation have proved of real service to the Sanitary Unit of the R.A.M.C. training in Chelsea. The Library has also been largely taken advantage of for letter-writing and miscellaneous reading by soldiers quartered in the neighbourhood.

The number of volumes permitted to be taken away from this Department for special purposes, principally by the lecturers of the South-Western Polytechnic Institute, was 124, as against 109 the previous year.

The stock is now 27,670 volumes, 1046 having been added since the last Report. These, with the stock of the Lending Department available for reference purposes, give a total of 53,771 volumes catalogued for consultation.

The collection of selected and mounted illustrations filed in this Department now numbers 18,875 items. The number lent for teaching and other purposes was 4,817, an increase of 863 on last year, proving that the collection serves a useful purpose and is appreciated.

#### LENDING DEPARTMENT.

The total number of volumes borrowed during the year was 140,039, as against 145,688 the previous year. This decrease is comparatively trifling when it is remembered that it is from a somewhat abnormal increase of 15,186 volumes the previous year, and, all things considered, the use made of this Department was much greater than was expected. It has afforded people an opportunity to divert their minds from the anxieties of the times.

The Lending Library was opened  $280\frac{1}{2}$  days and the daily average issue was 499 volumes, or 17 per day less than the previous year. The percentage of fiction issued was 56 as against 56.38 last year, and represents 32.30 per cent. of the whole issue of books. The largest number of books taken out on any one day

was 818 on April 9th, 1914, and the smallest 222 on January 2nd, 1915.

In October a complete revision of the Register of Borrowers was made, and the net number of borrowers' tickets left in use was found to be 6,766. The number of tickets issued since this revision was 1,893, and the number cancelled 1,854, including 129 not taken up. The total number of tickets in force is now 6,805, viz., 5,320 Reader's Tickets, 1,084 Students' Tickets, 342 Music Tickets, and 59 allowed to students of the South-Western Polytechnic Institute non-resident in Chelsea.

With the revision of the stock consequent upon the publication of a new catalogue and the withdrawal of worn out books not replaced, the total stock of volumes available for lending now numbers 36,938. The number withdrawn as worn out was 510, and of these 328 were replaced. In addition 58 books were destroyed by the Public Health Officers in accordance with the arrangement between the Public Health Committee and this Committee for the safety and assurance of the public. The Committee replaced 37 of these.

The neglect to return borrowed books called for 767 applications to borrowers or their guarantors, and the return of 30 books could only be obtained by sending messengers for them. Four books of the total value of 9s. 6d. were lost to the Library, the borrowers or their guarantors having left Chelsea. The amount of fines received compensates for the trouble and cost involved by this neglect to return books, and was £91 7s. 11d.

#### CATALOGUES.

A new revised and enlarged edition of the Catalogue of the Lending Department was printed during the year, the previous edition having been published in 1907. The work consists of 536 closely printed pages in double columns and contains about 52,000 entries. Owing to the cost of production and for other reasons, it has been found desirable to make an edition last some seven years, with the addition of an occasional supplement. This new Catalogue does not include the classes of Prose Fiction,

Music, and Books for Children, because separate catalogues of these sections are published at more frequent intervals.

The Quarterly List of new additions to both departments of the Library has been regularly continued and is much appreciated.

#### READING ROOM.

The supply of war news had not led to any perceptible increase in the number of persons using the Reading Room, and the statistics based upon the periodical countings show an attendance of 343,917, or a daily average of 1,113, as against 369,908 and 1,201 respectively last year. The total attendance on Sundays was 16,672, or a daily average of 327, as against 17,298 and 333. The Bank Holiday average attendance (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) was 126, as against 103 the previous year.

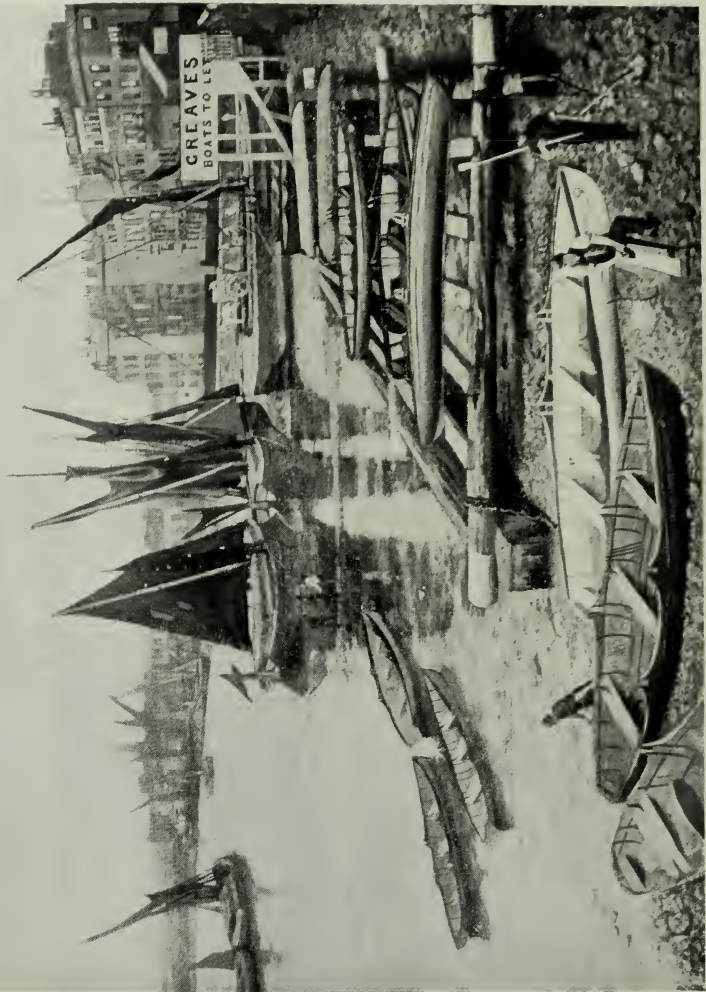
#### CHILDREN'S READING ROOMS.

The use made of these Rooms also shows a decrease, the total attendances being 23,506, and the number of volumes taken out 36,287, or 5,181 and 5,337 less respectively than the previous year. These Rooms are always subject to fluctuations in attendances owing to various causes, but the falling off is attributed mainly to the closing of the Rooms at 8 p.m. instead of 9 p.m. during the winter months when the Rooms are more used. This earlier closing was a consequence of the Lighting Order and the darkened streets, as it was deemed inadvisable to keep the children until the later hour.

Owing to the kindness of the ladies and gentlemen named below the Committee were able to continue the series of interesting and instructive lantern lectures during the winter six months the attendance being as follows :—

| 1914.                                                                                                                       | Attendance., |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Thursday, Oct. 22nd—"Some of the Public Buildings of London," by Mr. T. J. Murphy,<br>B.Sc.      ..      ..      ..      .. | 154          |
| Thursday, Oct. 29th—"The Making of Scenery," by Mr.<br>Geo. W. Young, F.G.S., F.Z.S.                                        | 143          |





GREAVES' LANDING STAGE, CHELSEA.

From the oil painting by Walter Greaves, presented by the Rt. Hon. Lord Northcliffe.

| 1914.      |            |                                                                                                              | ATTENDANCE. |
|------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Friday,    | Nov. 6th—  | "Soldiers of the King," by Mr. F. J. Holmberg .. ..                                                          | 183         |
| Monday,    | Nov. 23rd— | "The Story of Music," by Mr. W. A. Page .. ..                                                                | 143         |
| Thursday,  | Dec. 3rd—  | "A Talk about Architecture," by Mr. J. H. Greenwood .. ..                                                    | 159         |
| Thursday,  | Dec. 17th— | "War Pictures of 800 Years Ago," by Mr. W. G. Green .. ..                                                    | 179         |
| 1915.      |            |                                                                                                              |             |
| Thursday,  | Jan. 7th—  | "Manners and Customs of the Siamese as shown by their Proverbs," by Mrs. E. M. Hinchley ..                   | 72          |
| Thursday,  | Jan. 21st— | "Canada and the War," by Mr. W. Haydon (Canadian Northern Railway) .. ..                                     | 214         |
| Wednesday, | Feb. 10th— | "Through the Microscope," by Mr. A. J. Bride .. ..                                                           | 153         |
| Thursday,  | Feb. 25th— | "Our brave Soldiers and Sailors," by Miss Eva Macnaghten (Victoria League) .. ..                             | 204         |
| Thursday,  | Mar. 11th— | "Animals in Peace and War," by Mr. R. H. Love (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) .. .. | 232         |

As in former years Mr. T. G. Cooling most kindly operated the lantern on all these occasions.

The Children's Rooms were lent in October to the Local Relief Committee of the National Relief Fund, for some weeks, as workrooms for unemployed women.

#### CHELSEA COLLECTION.

Lord and Lady Courtney of Penwith presented the plasters of two bas-reliefs by Mr. A. G. Walker, of Cedar Studios, Chelsea, containing portraits of More and Erasmus and Carlyle and Mazzini.

In accordance with custom and by request, the Chairman (Mr. F. J. Welch), presented a photographic portrait of himself

as Mayor of Chelsea, upon retirement from that office, which he had filled for three years.

Mr. C. B. Farmer added to his former gifts a framed etching of Old Battersea Bridge, by Walter Greaves—probably the best example of the etched work of this artist.

A series of 200 lantern slides of reproductions of old prints, etc., of past and present Chelsea has been purchased and these will be available for loan to local societies and schools under suitable conditions. In addition Mrs. E. M. Hinchley presented a collection of 172 miscellaneous lantern slides for use in the same way.

#### OBITUARY.

In June, 1914, the Committee lost a valued and much respected colleague by the death of Mr. James Ford Hughes. He was appointed a member of the Committee in November, 1912, and continued to serve until his death in June last. The son of Judge Hughes (author of "Tom Brown's Schooldays"), he was a widely-read, cultured gentleman who rendered excellent service on the Committee.

On March 6th, 1915, by the death of the Earl Cadogan, K.G., the Library lost its greatest benefactor. He had much to do with the establishment of the Institution, supporting the movement for the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts in Chelsea in 1887, and signing the requisition to the Chelsea Vestry for a poll of the Parish. When the Acts were adopted by a majority of the voters he most generously offered the Libraries Commissioners the gift of the freehold of any site on his estate they might choose as suitable. When the Merton Villa site in Manresa-road was decided upon, the greater part of the land was not required for the Library, and the Earl added to his previous generosity by devoting this extra land to the purposes of the Polytechnic Institute. Besides this valuable gift of the site for the Library, he gave the sum of £350 towards the purchase of the nucleus of the stock of technical and scientific books. The late Countess Cadogan laid the memorial stone of the

Library on the 8th February, 1890, and the Earl formally opened the Institution on 21st January, 1891. The frontispiece to this Report is reproduced from a large photograph of him given to the Library at that time.

#### DONORS OF BOOKS.

The following is a list of persons and institutions from whom gifts of books and pamphlets were received during the year :—

Mr. Aleck Abrahams : Society of Accountants and Auditors ; Committee for the Suppression of Cruelty to Performing Animals ; Mr. Charles W. Armstrong ; Mrs. W. T. Arnold ; High Commissioner for Australia ; Miss Bateman ; Miss M. Beachcroft ; Mr. Arthur Bonner ; Bureau of Provincial Information, British Columbia ; British Dominions General Insurance Co., Ltd. ; British Institute of Social Service ; British Museum Trustees ; Mr. M. W. Brockwell ; Mr. C. S. Burne ; Messrs. E. J. Burrow and Co. ; Canadian Government ; Chelsea Borough Council ; Colonel Spencer Childers, *C.B.* ; City and Guilds of London Institute ; Co-operative Union, Ltd. ; Lord and Lady Courtney of Penwith ; Mr. C. Stewart Cox ; Miss A. M. Cust ; Mr. Cecil T. Davies ; Miss E. Thornton Down ; Commissioner of Education, Washington ; Prof. H. E. Egerton ; Mr. C. B. Farmer ; Dr. Alfred C. Fryer ; Miss Beatrice C. Gibbs ; Mr. E. A. Gordon ; Mr. Frederick Hammond ; Harvard College Museum ; Mr. Daniel Hipwell ; H.M. Stationery Office ; Sir S. J. G. Hoare, *Bart.*, *M.P.* ; Mr. Ernest Holland ; Mr. E. J. Horniman, *J.P.* ; Miss A. Hudson ; Humanitarian League ; Publishers of the " *Illustirte Zeitung* " ; Mr. Henri L. Joly ; Lady Durning-Lawrence ; London County Council ; Miss Long ; Messrs Macdonalds, Ltd. ; Miss A. G. Mackenzie ; Miss G. M. Mackenzie ; Mr. P. Jeffery Mackie ; Messrs. Macmillan and Co. ; Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. ; Mr. Sylvain Mayer ; Metropolitan Asylums Board ; Mr. Percy C. Morris ; Mr. Felix Moscheles ; National Temperance Federation ; National Union of Teachers ; Agent-General for New South Wales ; Mrs. Parrish ; Messrs. J. and J. Paton ; Port of London Authority ; Miss J. Quigley ; Mr. J. Henry Quinn, Jnr. ; Federation of Rambling Clubs ;

Reading Town Council ; Miss Roche ; Royal Colonial Institute ; Royal Leamington Spa Town Council ; Royal National Life-Boat Institution ; Mrs. J. Russell ; Messrs. Sells, Ltd. ; Smithsonian Institution ; Mr. M. H. Spielmann ; Colonel J. P. Steel ; South Eastern and Chatham Railway ; Town and Counties Directories, Ltd. ; Trinity College of Music, London ; University Correspondence College, Cambridge.

#### NEWSPAPERS, ETC., PRESENTED.

The following newspapers, periodicals, etc., were presented as issued by the respective publishers or proprietors :—

Accountant, Amateur Photographer, Anglo-Russian, Animal World, Animal's Friend, Animals' Guardian, Anti-Slavery Reporter, Anti-Suffrage Review, Anti-Vivisection Review, Arbitrator, Architect, Associated Accountants' Journal, Australasian World, Band of Mercy, Bird Notes and News, Boot and Shoe Retailer, Britain's Opium-Harvest, British Architect, British Columbia Magazine, Buddhist Review, Canadian, Charity Organisation Review, Charity Record, Chelsea Parish Magazine, Christian, Christian Globe, Church Family Newspaper, Church Gazette, Civil Service Candidate, Civil Service Hints, Clerk, Clerks of Works' Association Journal, Concord, Conservative and Unionist, Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Review, Contractor's Record, Contractors' Trade Journal, Cook's Excursionist, Cowkeeper and Dairymans' Journal, Cyclists' Touring Club Gazette, Dalton's Weekly, Decorator, Educational Record, Educational Times, Emigration Gazette, Epicure, Ethical World, Ferro-Concrete, Food and Cookery, Free Russia, Free Sunday Advocate, Free Trader, Friendly Leaves, Friendly Work, Fulham Chronicle, Great Western Railway Magazine, Health Record, Herald of Health, Herald of the Cross, Herald of the Golden Age, Home, Humanitarian, Incorporated Accountants' Journal, India, Indian Magazine, Insurance Agent, Insurance Record, International Theosophical Chronicle, Jewish Missionary Intelligence, Journal of Decorative Art, Land Values, Liberal Monthly, Liberator, Licensing World, Lifeboat, Literary Guide, Local Government Chronicle, Local Government Journal, London and Suburban Builder, London Crusader, London County Council Gazette, L.C.C. Workmen's Trains, etc., Guide, London Temperance Times, Lord's Day, Machinery Market, Manual Training, Matron, Mechanical World, Monthly Notes on Tariff Reform, Morley College Magazine, Musical Herald, Navy, New Church Magazine, Oddfellows' Magazine, Our Flag, Our Waifs and Strays, Parents' Review, Patents' Journal, Peacemaker, Pioneer of Wisdom, Pitman's Journal, Plumber and Decorator, Plumbing Trades Journal, Poor Law Officers' Journal, Positivist Review, Practical Engineer, Printers' Register, Railway Review, Representation, Return of Deaths of Seamen, Rural World, Sales and Wants, Secondary Education, Secretary, Socialist Standard, State Correspondent, Sunday Guardian, Theosophical Path, Theosophical

Quarterly, Timber Trades Journal, Trade Protection Journal, Travel, United Empire, University Correspondent, Vaccination Inquirer, Vegetarian Messenger, Vulcan, War and Peace, Wheatsheaf, Women's Industrial News, Zoophilist.

Besides the above, the following persons and institutions presented the periodicals named :—

Chelsea Temperance Society : Alliance News. Miss E. T. Down : Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society. Mrs. Elizabeth Ellis : The English Churchman. First Church of Christ, Scientist, Chelsea : Christian Science Journal, Christian Science Sentinel. Lady Scott Moncrieff : The Common Cause. Mrs. L. Moon : St. Andrew's, Chelsea, Parish Magazine. Society of Engineers (Incorporated) : Journal and Transactions. Unionist Associations of Ireland Joint Committee : Belfast Weekly News. Mr. F. J. Welch : London Teacher. Women's Branch of the Chelsea Tariff Reform League : Empire Illustrated.

The Chelsea Borough Council and the London County Council have sent their Minutes of Proceedings as issued, and the railway companies supplied their time-tables. Annual reports and catalogues have been received from a number of Public Libraries.

## REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

TABLE 1, SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED,  
WITH THEIR CLASSIFICATION.

| CLASS.                                        | WEEK DAYS.<br>Days open—280½. |                   | SUNDAYS.<br>Days Open—29*. |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
|                                               | Total vols.<br>issued.        | Daily<br>average. | Total vols.<br>issued.     | Daily<br>average. |
| Philosophy .....                              | 403                           | 2                 | 29                         | 1                 |
| Religion .....                                | 1507                          | 6                 | 37                         | 1                 |
| Sociology .....                               | 7318                          | 26                | 117                        | 4                 |
| Language .....                                | 5379                          | 19                | 111                        | 4                 |
| Science .....                                 | 3551                          | 13                | 81                         | 3                 |
| Useful Arts .....                             | 3485                          | 12                | 59                         | 2                 |
| Fine Arts .....                               | 6627                          | 23                | 177                        | 6                 |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama,<br>Essays) .....   | 7047                          | 25                | 183                        | 6                 |
| History, Biography, Travels....               | 20180                         | 72                | 386                        | 13                |
| Miscellaneous (Encyclopaedias,<br>etc.) ..... | 9532                          | 34                | 213                        | 8                 |
| TOTAL .....                                   | 65029                         | 232               | 1393                       | 48                |

\* Closed May—September inclusive.

## LENDING DEPARTMENT.

TABLE 2, SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED,  
WITH THEIR CLASSIFICATION.

| CLASS.                                | Days open—280½.          |                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
|                                       | Total volumes<br>issued. | Daily average. |
| Philosophy .....                      | 884                      | 3              |
| Religion .....                        | 1461                     | 5              |
| Sociology .....                       | 2224                     | 8              |
| Language .....                        | 390                      | 1              |
| Science .....                         | 2189                     | 7              |
| Useful Arts .....                     | 2159                     | 7              |
| Fine Arts .....                       | 6513                     | 25             |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama, Essays) .. | 7849                     | 28             |
| History, Biography, Travels .....     | 15080                    | 54             |
| Books for Children .....              | 22161                    | 79             |
| Prose Fiction .....                   | 78421                    | 279            |
| Miscellaneous (Magazines, etc.) ..... | 708                      | 3              |
| TOTAL .....                           | 140039                   | 499            |

Number of Borrowers' Tickets in force—6805.

## CHILDREN'S ROOMS.

TABLE 3, SHOWING THE NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED,  
WITH THEIR CLASSIFICATION.

| CLASS.                                        | WEEK DAYS.<br>Open<br>305 evenings. | SUNDAYS.<br>Open<br>52 evenings. | Total volumes<br>issued. |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                               | Volumes<br>issued.                  | Volumes<br>issued.               |                          |
| Philosophy .....                              | 60                                  | 2                                | 62                       |
| Religion .....                                | 35                                  | 17                               | 52                       |
| Sociology .....                               | 1019                                | 100                              | 1119                     |
| Language .....                                | 104                                 | 7                                | 111                      |
| Science .....                                 | 1124                                | 290                              | 1414                     |
| Useful Arts .....                             | 117                                 | 21                               | 138                      |
| Fine Arts .....                               | 289                                 | 134                              | 423                      |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama,<br>Essays) .....   | 1968                                | 507                              | 2475                     |
| History, Biography, Travels ....              | 3511                                | 881                              | 4392                     |
| Stories .....                                 | 11004                               | 2685                             | 13689                    |
| Magazines and Periodicals (in<br>vols.) ..... | 10145                               | 2267                             | 12412                    |
| TOTAL .....                                   | 29376                               | 6911                             | 36287                    |

*Total attendances for the year—23506.*

## READING ROOMS.

TABLE 4, SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENTERING  
THE ROOMS ON THE DAYS NAMED.

| 1914.                                                       |                | Total. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| Saturday, April 18th .. (9 a.m. to 10 p.m.) ..              | ..             | 1008   |
| Monday, May 18th .. .. ( ditto ) ..                         | ..             | 944    |
| Tuesday, June 30th .. .. ( ditto ) ..                       | ..             | 903    |
| Wednesday, July 15th .. (9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5 to 10 p.m.) .. | ..             | 831    |
| Thursday, August 6th .. (9 a.m. to 10 p.m.) ..              | ..             | 1322   |
| Friday, September 18th .. ( ditto ) ..                      | ..             | 1386   |
| Saturday, October 17th .. ( ditto ) ..                      | ..             | 1184   |
| Monday, November 16th ( ditto ) ..                          | ..             | 1307   |
| Tuesday, December 15th ( ditto ) ..                         | ..             | 1189   |
| 1915.                                                       |                |        |
| Wednesday, January 20th (9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5 to 10 p.m.) .. | ..             | 987    |
| Thursday, February 18th (9 a.m. to 10 p.m.) ..              | ..             | 1213   |
| Friday, March 19th .. ( ditto ) ..                          | ..             | 1081   |
| 1914.                                                       | BANK HOLIDAYS. |        |
| Easter Monday, April 13th .. .. (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) ..       | ..             | 107    |
| Whit Monday, June 1st .. .. ( ditto ) ..                    | ..             | 128    |
| First Monday in August, August 3rd ( ditto ) ..             | ..             | 144    |

## SUNDAY ATTENDANCE.

The Reading Rooms were open on 51 Sundays, the total attendance being 16672, giving an average of 327 per Sunday (October—June, 3 to 9 p.m.; July—September, 6 to 9 p.m.)

TABLE 5, SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION AND NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

| CLASS.                                          | Reference Library. | Lending Library. | Children's Rooms. | Totals. | Per cent. |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| Philisophy .....                                | 432                | 884              | 62                | 1378    | 0.57      |
| Religion .....                                  | 1544               | 1461             | 52                | 3057    | 1.26      |
| Sociology .....                                 | 7435               | 2224             | 1119              | 10778   | 4.44      |
| Language .....                                  | 5490               | 390              | 111               | 5991    | 2.47      |
| Science .....                                   | 3632               | 2189             | 1414              | 7235    | 2.98      |
| Useful Arts .....                               | 3544               | 2159             | 138               | 5841    | 2.41      |
| Fine Arts .....                                 | 6804               | 6513             | 423               | 13740   | 5.66      |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama, Essays) .....        | 7230               | 7849             | 2475              | 17554   | 7.23      |
| History, Biography, Travels                     | 20566              | 15080            | 4392              | 40038   | 16.49     |
| Stories for Children .....                      | —                  | 22161            | 13689             | 35850   | 14.77     |
| Prose Fiction .....                             | —                  | 78421            | —                 | 78421   | 32.30     |
| Miscellaneous (Magazines, Encyclopaedias, etc.) | 9745               | 708              | 12412             | 22865   | 9.42      |
| TOTAL .....                                     | 66422              | 140039           | 36287             | 242748  | 100.00    |

TABLE 6, SHOWING THE TOTAL ANNUAL ISSUE OF VOLUMES SINCE THE OPENING OF THE LIBRARY.

|                              |    |    |           |
|------------------------------|----|----|-----------|
| Jan. 23rd—May, 1891          | .. | .. | 45,905    |
| 1891-92 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 157,693   |
| 1892-93 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 168,623   |
| 1893-94 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 179,456   |
| 1894-95 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 180,016   |
| 1895-96 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 170,834   |
| 1896-97 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 171,298   |
| 1897-98 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 168,853   |
| 1898-99 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 171,585   |
| 1899-1900 .. .. .            | .. | .. | 170,522   |
| 1900-1 (June 1st—March 31st) | .. | .. | 159,892   |
| 1901-2 .. .. .               | .. | .. | 184,656   |
| 1902-3 .. .. .               | .. | .. | 211,611   |
| 1903-4 .. .. .               | .. | .. | 216,590   |
| 1904-5 .. .. .               | .. | .. | 198,257   |
| 1905-6 .. .. .               | .. | .. | 208,188   |
| 1906-7 .. .. .               | .. | .. | 223,079   |
| 1907-8 .. .. .               | .. | .. | 226,836   |
| 1908-9 .. .. .               | .. | .. | 239,950   |
| 1909-10 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 250,549   |
| 1910-11 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 234,899   |
| 1911-12 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 232,427   |
| 1912-13 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 234,856   |
| 1913-14 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 262,713   |
| 1914-15 .. .. .              | .. | .. | 242,748   |
| TOTAL .. .. .                | .. | .. | 4,912,036 |



UNLOADING THE BARGE, LINDSEY JETTY.

From the oil painting by Walter Greaves, presented by the Rt. Hon. Lord Northcliffe.



TABLE 7. SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE STOCK  
OF BOOKS BY DEPARTMENTS.

| CLASS.                                                       | Reference. | Lending. | Children's<br>Rooms. | Total<br>volumes<br>in Library,<br>31st Mar.,<br>1915. | Per cent. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Philosophy .....                                             | 318        | 884      | 6                    | 1208                                                   | 1·83      |
| Religion .....                                               | 1578       | 2005     | 29                   | 3612                                                   | 5·51      |
| Sociology .....                                              | 3026       | 2365     | 12                   | 5403                                                   | 8·20      |
| Language .....                                               | 300        | 343      | 19                   | 662                                                    | 1·00      |
| Science .....                                                | 1966       | 1914     | 97                   | 3977                                                   | 6·04      |
| Useful Arts .....                                            | 1887       | 1403     | 21                   | 3311                                                   | 5·02      |
| Fine Arts .....                                              | 2677       | 2101     | 9                    | 4787                                                   | 7·27      |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama,<br>Essays) .....                  | 2345       | 3869     | 87                   | 6310                                                   | 9·58      |
| History, Biography, Travels                                  | 9876       | 10460    | 178                  | 20514                                                  | 31·15     |
| Stories for Children .....                                   | —          | 2818     | 634                  | 3452                                                   | 5·24      |
| Prose Fiction .....                                          | —          | 8020     | —                    | 8020                                                   | 12·17     |
| Miscellaneous (Encyclo-<br>pædias, Magazines,<br>etc.) ..... | 3688       | 756      | 160                  | 4604                                                   | 6·99      |
| TOTAL .....                                                  | 27670      | 36938    | 1252                 | 65860                                                  | 100·00    |

## FINANCIAL

## Sums received and expended

| RECEIPTS.                                |    |    |    |    | £  | s. | d. | £    | s. | d. |
|------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|----|----|
| Balance from 1913-14                     | .. | .. | .. | .. |    |    |    | 585  | 4  | 9  |
| From Rates allocated to Public Libraries |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |
| Account                                  | .. | .. | .. | .. |    |    |    | 3697 | 18 | 4  |
| Fines and Penalties                      | .. | .. | .. | .. |    |    |    | 91   | 7  | 11 |
| Other Receipts :—                        |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |      |    |    |
| Sale of Catalogues                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 | 3  | 3  |      |    |    |
| Sale of Tickets                          | .. | .. | .. | .. |    | 18 | 2  |      |    |    |
| Sale of Waste Paper, etc.                |    |    |    | .. |    | 8  | 5  | 5    |    |    |
| Bank Interest                            | .. | .. | .. | .. | 21 | 2  | 6  |      |    |    |
|                                          |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 40   | 9  | 4  |

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£4415 0 4

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CHELSEA COMMEMORA  
(including Bequest of Mrs.

|                      |    |    |    |    |    |    | £   | s. | d. |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Balance from 1913-14 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 95  | 7  | 1  |
| Bank Interest        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2   | 7  | 10 |
|                      |    |    |    |    |    |    | £97 | 14 | 11 |

## STATEMENT.

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under the Public Libraries Acts.

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| EXPENDITURE.                                                                      |  |  |  | £   | s. | d. | £     | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|-----|----|----|-------|----|----|
| Buildings, Repairs and Maintenance :—                                             |  |  |  |     |    |    |       |    |    |
| Building and Furniture Repairs and Im-                                            |  |  |  |     |    |    |       |    |    |
| provements .. .. .                                                                |  |  |  | 139 | 4  | 9  |       |    |    |
| Cleaning, Fuel and Lighting .. .. .                                               |  |  |  | 170 | 6  | 9½ |       |    |    |
| Rates and Taxes, Insurance .. .. .                                                |  |  |  | 81  | 3  | 3  |       |    |    |
|                                                                                   |  |  |  |     |    |    | 390   | 14 | 9½ |
| Books, Newspapers, etc. .. .. .                                                   |  |  |  | 652 | 19 | 1  |       |    |    |
| Bookbinding and Repairs .. .. .                                                   |  |  |  | 107 | 3  | 11 |       |    |    |
| Printing Catalogues .. .. .                                                       |  |  |  | 331 | 15 | 10 |       |    |    |
|                                                                                   |  |  |  |     |    |    | 1091  | 18 | 10 |
| Salaries of Officers and Assistants .. .. .                                       |  |  |  |     |    |    | 1472  | 2  | 4  |
| Establishment Charges, viz. :—                                                    |  |  |  |     |    |    |       |    |    |
| Stationery and Printing .. .. .                                                   |  |  |  | 38  | 3  | 2  |       |    |    |
| Carriage, Postages, etc. .. .. .                                                  |  |  |  | 21  | 16 | 11 |       |    |    |
| Uniform Clothing .. .. .                                                          |  |  |  | 9   | 16 | 3  |       |    |    |
|                                                                                   |  |  |  |     |    |    | 69    | 16 | 4  |
| Annual Payment to Paddington Borough Council under Financial Adjustment Scheme .. |  |  |  |     |    |    | 300   | 0  | 0  |
| Repayment on Loans and Interest on Loans :—                                       |  |  |  |     |    |    |       |    |    |
| Principal repaid :—                                                               |  |  |  |     |    |    |       |    |    |
| To the London County Council ..                                                   |  |  |  | 474 | 14 | 11 |       |    |    |
| Interest, including Income Tax :—                                                 |  |  |  |     |    |    |       |    |    |
| To the London County Council ..                                                   |  |  |  | 105 | 6  | 1  |       |    |    |
|                                                                                   |  |  |  |     |    |    | 580   | 1  | 0  |
| Total Expenditure .. .. .                                                         |  |  |  |     |    |    | 3904  | 13 | 3½ |
| Balance at the end of the year .. .. .                                            |  |  |  |     |    |    | 510   | 7  | 0½ |
|                                                                                   |  |  |  |     |    |    |       |    |    |
|                                                                                   |  |  |  |     |    |    | £4415 | 0  | 4  |

## TION (1837-1897) FUND.

Henrietta Yates, £100).

---

|                 | £   | s. | d. |
|-----------------|-----|----|----|
| Balance .. .. . | 97  | 14 | 11 |
|                 |     |    |    |
|                 | £97 | 14 | 11 |

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J. HENRY QUINN,

*Clerk to the Public Libraries Committee.*

(This Statement, when audited, will be embodied in the "Abstract of the Borough Treasurer's Accounts," 1914-15).

## Memoranda.

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Population of the Borough of Chelsea,<br>Census 1911 .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                        | 66,404          |
| Area of the Borough .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 659.6 acres     |
| Rateable Value of the Borough .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                               | £925,011        |
| Public Libraries Acts adopted .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                               | May, 1887       |
| First Commissioners for Public Libraries<br>appointed .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                       | June, 1887      |
| Temporary Library opened in Town Hall..                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Nov. 1887       |
| Librarian appointed .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Nov., 1887      |
| The late Earl Cadogan, <i>K.G.</i> , gave the free-<br>hold site for the Library and £350 for<br>the purchase of technical books ..                                                                                                                 | Feb., 1888      |
| Charity Commissioners received Deputation<br>organised by the Chelsea Libraries<br>Commissioners, asking for the establish-<br>ment of the South-Western Polytechnic,<br>30th April, 1888, and agreed to the<br>establishment of the Polytechnic .. | 10th May, 1888  |
| The late Rt. Hon. Sir Charles W. Dilke,<br><i>Bart.</i> , <i>M.P.</i> , gave £500 for the purchase<br>of books .. .. .                                                                                                                              | May, 1888       |
| Memorial Stone of the Library laid by the<br>late Countess Cadogan .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                          | 8th Feb., 1890  |
| Library opened by the late Earl Cadogan,<br><i>K.G.</i> .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                     | 21st Jan., 1891 |
| Queen Victoria Gallery of Chelsea Prints and<br>Drawings opened .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                             | 4th Dec., 1899  |
| Public Libraries Commissioners' duties trans-<br>ferred to the Boroughs of Chelsea and<br>Paddington, and the Kensal Town<br>Branch Library transferred to Padding-<br>ton .. .. .                                                                  | 1st April, 1901 |
| Bequest by Mrs. Henrietta Yates, of Pens-<br>hurst, of £100 and art objects ..                                                                                                                                                                      | Sept., 1904     |
| Number of Volumes in the Library ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 65,860          |
| Number of Volumes issued 1913-14 ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 242, 748        |
| Total number issued since opening ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 4,912,036       |



THE HANS TOWN (UPPER CHELSEA) VOLUNTEERS, FORMED IN 1798.  
(From an aquatint print in the Queen Victoria Gallery.)





Gifts of Books, Prints, or Works of Art  
will be received or sent for by the Librarian,  
Public Library, Manresa Road, S.W.

Bequests to be made to the Council of  
the Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea for  
the purposes of the Public Libraries and  
Museums.

25,142  
-8473R  
315-16

METROPOLITAN  
BOROUGH OF CHELSEA

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Annual Report  
of the  
Committee for Public Libraries  
and Museums  
for  
the Year ending 31st March, 1916

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London :  
SHIELD & SPRING, PRINTERS, 26-28, LANCELOT PLACE,  
BROMPTON ROAD, S.W.

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MAY, 1916.

# Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea.

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## Committee for Public Libraries and Museums 1915-1916.

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COUNCILLOR F. J. WELCH, J.P., Chairman.

The Mayor, REV. ROBERT HUDSON, M.A., J.P.

THE VEN. ARCHDEACON H. E. J.  
BEVAN, M.A. (*Rector of Chelsea*).

COUNCILLOR G. W. DAMAN, M.A.

COUNCILLOR T. C. E. GOFF, J.P.

ALDERMAN W. E. GORDON, M.A.

COUNCILLOR E. L. MEINERTZHAGEN  
J.P., L.C.C.

MR. PERCY C. MORRIS, LL.B.

COUNCILLOR W. J. MULVEY, J.P.

MR. FOSTER W. PROCTER, J.P.

COUNCILLOR T. J. ROBINSON.

COUNCILLOR THE HON. WILLIAM  
SIDNEY, J.P.

COUNCILLOR GEORGE WHITE.

ALDERMAN MAJOR W. F. WOODS,  
J.P.

COUNCILLOR H. J. WRIGHT (Died 10th June, 1915).

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Librarian and Clerk to the Committee :  
J. HENRY QUINN.

Sub-Librarian : ARMITAGE DENTON.

Assistant : DAVID S. YOUNG.

# Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea.

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## PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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### TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1915-16.

**D**URING the year ended 31st March, 1916, the total number of volumes issued in all departments of the Library was 212,891. This is satisfactory when all the circumstances of the times are taken into account.

#### REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

The use made of the Reference Library has been adversely affected by the War owing to the absence on active service of men students. Study and research are, however, not neglected, though they are for the most part in subjects required by the necessities of the moment. The number of volumes consulted was 57,724, a daily average of 199.

The stock of this department is 30,650 volumes, 2980 having been added since the last report, inclusive of those transferred from the Lending Department, referred to below. With the books (other than fiction) from the Lending Department catalogued for reference the total number now available is 55,773 volumes.

The mounted illustrations filed in this department have increased to 21,886 items, 3011 having been added during the year. The use made of these illustrations for teaching and other purposes

is steadily growing, the number lent being 5,054; last year it was 4,817, and the year before 3,954.

#### LENDING DEPARTMENT.

There is also a slight decrease in the use made of this department as compared with last year, the number of books borrowed being 137,971, a daily average of 489. The percentage of fiction issued was 54.62 as against 56 last year, or 38.50 of the issue of books in both departments.

The number of borrower's tickets applied for was 3,759, and the number cancelled was 3,876, leaving the net number in force on the 31st March, 1916, at 6,688.

Advantage was taken of the publication of the new General Catalogue of this department to revise the stock. Books now little in demand, but of permanent value, were transferred to the Reference Department, while the stock of scientific and technical works received special attention, obsolete books being discarded or replaced by the latest editions. The stock on the 31st March numbered 35,157 volumes.

Besides the General Catalogue a new, revised edition of the Catalogue of Prose Fiction was published. This also afforded an opportunity for revising the stock by eliminating books the worse for wear and for which there was not much request. Including these, the number of books withdrawn during the year as worn out was 866 and 21 others were destroyed by the Public Health Department for safety. Of these 260 were replaced and 627 cancelled in the Stock Books. Where suitable the old copies were divided between No. 2 Military Hospital (St. Mark's College), the soldiers' recreation rooms at Burton's Court, and the Workhouse.

#### READING ROOM.

The statistics of attendance during the year, based upon countings taken at regular intervals, give a total of 323,400, or a daily average of 1,050 (9 a.m. to 10 p.m.). On Sundays the

total attendance was 12,606, an average of 247 per day (October-April, 3 to 9 p.m., May-September, 6 to 9 p.m.).

### CHILDREN'S READING ROOMS.

There is a considerable decrease in the use made of this department when compared with former years. The total attendance was 10,264, and the number of books used was 17,196.

The Committee were enabled to continue the series of instructive lantern lectures to children and have to acknowledge the kindness of the lecturers in giving their services and of Mr. T. G. Cooing in operating the lantern. The list and attendances were as follows : —

| 1915.           |                                                                           | Attendance. |    |    |     |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----|----|-----|
| Thursday, Oct.  | 14th—"Our Navy," by Mr. P. S. Mallett (The Navy League)                   | ..          | .. | .. | 144 |
| Wednesday Oct.  | 27th—"New Zealand," by Mrs. P. C. Corliss (The Victoria League)           | ..          | .. | .. | 133 |
| Wednesday, Nov. | 10th—"Siam and the Siamese," By Mrs. E. M. Hinchley                       | ..          | .. | .. | 198 |
| Wednesday, Nov. | 24th—"Story-telling," By Mr. F. J. Gould                                  | ..          | .. | .. | 216 |
| Wednesday, Dec. | 15th—"Pictures of Old Chelsea," by the Librarian                          | ..          | .. | .. | 167 |
| Wednesday, Jan. | 12th—"A run through Canada," by Mr. W. Haydon (Canadian Northern Railway) | ..          | .. | .. | 136 |
| 1916.           |                                                                           |             |    |    |     |
| Wednesday, Jan. | 26th—"Greece and Constantinople," by Mr. C. J. Purnell, M.A.              | ..          | .. | .. | 169 |
| Wednesday, Feb. | 9th—"Holidays on a Dorset Farm," By Mr. H. H. Wrench                      | ..          | .. | .. | 169 |
| Wednesday, Feb. | 23rd—"Old London," by Mr. C. H. Hopwood                                   | ..          | .. | .. | 136 |
| Wednesday, Mar. | 8th—"Japan," by Miss Annie Anderson (The Victoria League)                 | ..          | .. | .. | 201 |
| Wednesday, Mar. | 22nd—"Gardening for Chelsea Children," by Mr. Cyril Harding.              | ..          | .. | .. | 212 |

## VISITS OF SOCIETIES, ETC.

Organised visits to the Library were paid during the year by the Home Counties Archæological Society, "Everyman" Ramblers (twice), The London Central (Y.M.C.A.) Rambling Club, the students of Whitelands College, and senior pupils of St. Luke's Boys' School.

## LOCAL COLLECTION.

From the Chelsea Commemoration Fund the Committee have purchased a picture in oils of the interior of Chelsea Old Church, by Miss Emily S. Wormsley, painted about twenty-five years ago, and two local manuscripts. One of these manuscripts is entitled "An Account of the Trophies displayed in the Chapel and Hall of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, prepared by J. Ford, Captain of Invalids, September, 1841." This is illustrated by drawings in colour of the various flags, etc. The other manuscript is in two volumes or parts, entitled respectively "Antiquities in the Church of St. Luke, Chelsea, in the County of Middlesex, 1816; with some Account of the Advowson and Biographical Memoirs of some of the Rectors, by Robert Chambers the Younger, of Chelsea, and of Lincoln's Inn," and "The History and Antiquities of Chelsea in the County of Middlesex, 1820, by Robert Chambers, the Younger, of Chelsea, and of Lincoln's Inn." Both volumes are illustrated by the author with original drawings of the important Chelsea houses and of the monuments, coats of arms, etc., in the Old Church.

## DONORS OF BOOKS, ETC.

Mr. Emslie J. Horniman, J.P., who is a member of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), has presented a series of 1372 mounted photographs of ancient churches, houses, etc., taken in Buckinghamshire under the auspices of the Commission, and supplementing the similar series for Hertfordshire

given by him in 1912. As four sets only of these photographs were prepared it will be seen that the gift is both interesting and valuable.

The following is a list of other donors of books, etc., to the Library during the year :—

Society of Accountants and Auditors ; Miss M. Althouse ; Mr. A. Ammann ; High Commissioner for Australia ; Mr. A. Bautre ; Mr. J. Bibby ; Mr. Reginald Blunt ; Mrs. C. Bridges ; Agent-General for British Columbia ; British Museum Trustees ; Brooklyn Institute Museum ; Mrs. G. B. Buckton ; Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings ; Mrs. H. M. Burbidge ; Canadian Government ; Canadian Northern Railway, per Mr. Walter Haydon ; Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees ; Miss S. A. L. Christie ; Lady Church ; City and Guilds of London Institute ; Mr. T. G. Cooling ; Co-operative Union, Ltd ; Rt. Hon. Lord Courtney of Penwith ; Miss A. M. Cust ; Miss E. Thornton Down ; Trustees of Mary Baker Eddy ; Miss Farr ; Mrs. Jane Fisher ; Colonel J. Garnier ; Misses Gibbs ; Trustees of Mrs. Honyman Gillespie ; Mr. Gladstone's Family ; Miss Goodman ; Mrs. Dan Haggard ; Miss Eliz. Haig ; Mr. S. H. Halford ; Mrs. Gardiner Hamilton ; Harvard University ; Mr. D. Hipwell ; Sir S. J. Hoare, Bart., M.P. ; Miss J. B. Horner ; Mr. H. W. Innes ; Alderman Jas. Jeffery, J.P. ; Miss V. Ross-Johnson ; Kinematograph and Lantern Weekly, Ltd. ; Mrs. M. Labalmondière ; Mr. G. Ambrose Lee ; Messrs. Littlebury Bros. ; London County Council ; London Directory Co., Ltd. ; Miss G. M. Mackenzie ; Messrs. Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd. ; Metropolitan Asylums Board ; Mr. Percy C. Morris ; Mr. Felix Moscheles ; National Union of Teachers ; Dr. J. Foster Palmer ; Messrs. J. and J. Paton ; Rev. S. P. T. Prideaux ; Royal National Lifeboat Institution ; Mr. Frank Sanguinetti ; Messrs. Sells', Ltd. ; Mr. Walter R. Skinner ; Miss M. Sharpe ; Standard Bank of South Africa ; South Western Polytechnic Institute ; Southport Corporation ; Messrs. Stubbs', Ltd. ; Mr. D. J. Taylor ; Trinity College of Music, London ; United States Bureau of Education ; West London Industrial Co-operative Society, Ltd. ; Mr. Ed. Willmore ; Representative of the late Mr. Sidney Young.

#### NEWSPAPERS, ETC., PRESENTED.

The following newspapers, periodicals, etc., were presented as issued by the respective publishers or proprietors :—

Accountant, Amateur Photographer, Anglo-Russian, Animals' Friend, Animals' Guardian, Anti-Slavery Reporter, Anti-Suffrage Review, Anti-Vivisection Review, Arbitrator, Architect, Associated Accountants' Journal, Australasian World, Band of Mercy, Bird Notes and News, Boot and Shoe Retailer, Britain's Opium Harvest, British Architect, Buddhist Review, Charity Organisation Review, Charity Record, Chelsea Parish Magazine, Christian, Christian Globe, Church Family Newspaper, Church Gazette, Civil Service Candidate, Civil Service Hints, Clerks of Works' Association Journal, Concord, Contractor's Record, Cook's Excursionist, Co-operative News, Cowkeeper and Dairyman's Journal, Crèche News, Cyclists' Touring Club Gazette, Dalton's Weekly, Educational Record, Educational Times, Food and Cookery, Free Russia, Free Sunday Advocate, Friendly Leaves, Friendly Work, Fulham Chronicle, Great Western Railway Magazine, Health Record, Herald of Health, Herald of the Cross, Herald of the Golden Age, Herald of the Star, Humanitarian, Incorporated Accountants' Journal, India, Indian Magazine, Insurance Agent, Insurance Record, International Theosophical Chronicle, Jewish Missionary Intelligence, Journal of Decorative Art, Land Values, Liberator, Licensing World, Lifeboat, Literary Guide, Local Government Chronicle, London County Council Gazette, L.C.C. Workman's Trains, etc., Guide, Lord's Day, Machinery Market, Manual Training, Matron, Mechanical World, Morley College Magazine, Musical Herald, Navy, New Church Magazine, Oddfellows' Magazine, Our Waifs and Strays, Patents' Journal, Peacemaker, Pioneer of Wisdom, Plumbing Trades Journal, Practical Engineer, Printers' Register, Railway Review, Representation, Return of Deaths of Seamen, Rural World, Sales and Wants, Secondary Education, Secretary, Socialist Standard, Spiritual Life, State Correspondent, Theosophical Path, Theosophical Quarterly, Trade Protection Journal, Travel, United Empire, University Correspondent, Vaccination Inquirer, Vegetarian Messenger, Vulcan, Wheatsheaf, Zoophilist.

Besides the above, the following persons and institutions presented the periodicals named :—

Miss E. T. Down : Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society. Mrs. Elizabeth Ellis : The English Churchman. First Church of Christ, Scientist, Chelsea : Christian Science Journal, Christian Science Sentinel. Lady Scott Moncrieff : The Common Cause. Mrs. L. Moon : St. Andrew's, Chelsea, Parish Magazine. Society of Engineers (Incorporated) : Journal and Transactions. Unionist Associations of Ireland Joint Committee : Belfast Weekly News. Mr. F. J. Welch, J.P. : London Teacher.

TABLE 1, SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION AND NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

| CLASS.                                               | Reference Library. | Lending Library. | Children's Rooms. | Totals.       | Per cent.     |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Philosophy .....                                     | 567                | 1020             | 49                | 1636          | 0.76          |
| Religion .....                                       | 1600               | 1410             | 25                | 3035          | 1.43          |
| Sociology .....                                      | 6046               | 2043             | 349               | 8438          | 3.96          |
| Language .....                                       | 5883               | 465              | 162               | 6510          | 3.06          |
| Science .....                                        | 3012               | 2539             | 427               | 5978          | 2.81          |
| Useful Arts .....                                    | 3412               | 2634             | 35                | 6081          | 2.86          |
| Fine Arts .....                                      | 5873               | 6372             | 50                | 12295         | 5.77          |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama, Essays) .....             | 5990               | 9550             | 294               | 15834         | 7.44          |
| History, Biography, Travels .....                    | 16654              | 14610            | 683               | 31947         | 15.01         |
| Stories for Children .....                           | —                  | 21618            | 5578              | 27196         | 12.77         |
| Prose Fiction .....                                  | —                  | 75363            | —                 | 75363         | 35.40         |
| Miscellaneous (Magazines, Encyclopædias, etc.) ..... | 8687               | 347              | 9544              | 18578         | 8.73          |
| <b>TOTAL .....</b>                                   | <b>57724</b>       | <b>137971</b>    | <b>17196</b>      | <b>212891</b> | <b>100.00</b> |

TABLE 2, SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE STOCK OF BOOKS BY DEPARTMENTS.

| CLASS.                                               | Reference.   | Lending.     | Children's Rooms. | Total volumes in Library, 31st Mar., 1916. | Per cent.     |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Philosophy .....                                     | 345          | 909          | 6                 | 1260                                       | 1.86          |
| Religion .....                                       | 1625         | 2030         | 29                | 3684                                       | 5.50          |
| Sociology .....                                      | 3266         | 2194         | 12                | 5472                                       | 8.16          |
| Language .....                                       | 311          | 341          | 19                | 671                                        | 1.00          |
| Science .....                                        | 2103         | 1853         | 98                | 4054                                       | 6.04          |
| Useful Arts .....                                    | 2051         | 1342         | 21                | 3414                                       | 5.09          |
| Fine Arts .....                                      | 2837         | 2089         | 9                 | 4935                                       | 7.36          |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama, Essays) .....             | 2713         | 3859         | 88                | 6660                                       | 9.93          |
| History, Biography, Travels .....                    | 11076        | 9746         | 179               | 21001                                      | 31.31         |
| Stories for Children .....                           | —            | 2796         | 645               | 3441                                       | 5.13          |
| Prose Fiction .....                                  | —            | 7865         | —                 | 7865                                       | 11.73         |
| Miscellaneous (Encyclopædias, Magazines, etc.) ..... | 4323         | 133          | 166               | 4622                                       | 6.89          |
| <b>TOTAL .....</b>                                   | <b>30650</b> | <b>35157</b> | <b>1272</b>       | <b>67079</b>                               | <b>100.00</b> |

TABLE 3, SHOWING THE TOTAL ANNUAL ISSUE OF VOLUMES  
SINCE THE OPENING OF THE LIBRARY.

|                              |    |    |    |    |           |
|------------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----------|
| Jan. 23rd—May, 1891          | .. | .. | .. | .. | 45,905    |
| 1891-92                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 157,693   |
| 1892-93                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 168,623   |
| 1893-94                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 179,456   |
| 1894-95                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 180,016   |
| 1895-96                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 170,834   |
| 1896-97                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 171,298   |
| 1897-98                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 168,853   |
| 1898-99                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 171,585   |
| 1899-1900                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 170,522   |
| 1900-1 (June 1st—March 31st) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 159,892   |
| 1901-2                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 184,656   |
| 1902-3                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 211,611   |
| 1903-4                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 216,590   |
| 1904-5                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 198,257   |
| 1905-6                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 208,188   |
| 1906-7                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 223,079   |
| 1907-8                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 226,836   |
| 1908-9                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | 239,950   |
| 1909-10                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 250,549   |
| 1910-11                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 234,899   |
| 1911-12                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 232,427   |
| 1912-13                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 234,856   |
| 1913-14                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 262,713   |
| 1914-15                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 242,748   |
| 1915-16                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | 212,891   |
| Total                        | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5,124,927 |

## Memoranda.

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Population of the Borough of Chelsea,<br>Census 1911 .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                        | 66,404          |
| Estimated population, 1915 .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 67,200          |
| Area of the Borough .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 659·6 acres     |
| Rateable Value of the Borough .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                               | £924,675        |
| Public Libraries Acts adopted .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                               | May, 1887       |
| First Commissioners for Public Libraries<br>appointed .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                       | June, 1887      |
| Temporary Library opened in Town Hall ..                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Nov., 1887      |
| Librarian appointed .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Nov., 1887      |
| The late Earl Cadogan, <i>K.G.</i> , gave the free-<br>hold site for the Library and £350 for<br>the purchase of technical books ..                                                                                                                 | Feb., 1888      |
| Charity Commissioners received Deputation<br>organised by the Chelsea Libraries<br>Commissioners, asking for the establish-<br>ment of the South-Western Polytechnic,<br>30th April, 1888, and agreed to the<br>establishment of the Polytechnic .. | 10th May, 1888  |
| The late Rt. Hon. Sir Charles W. Dilke,<br><i>Bart, M.P.</i> , gave £500 for the purchase<br>of books .. .. .                                                                                                                                       | May, 1888       |
| Memorial Stone of the Library laid by the<br>late Countess Cadogan .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                          | 8th Feb., 1890  |
| Library opened by the late Earl Cadogan,<br><i>K.G.</i> .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                     | 21st Jan., 1891 |
| Queen Victoria Gallery of Chelsea Prints and<br>Drawings opened .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                             | 4th Dec., 1899  |
| Public Libraries Commissioners' duties trans-<br>ferred to the Boroughs of Chelsea and<br>Paddington, and the Kensal Town<br>Branch Library transferred to Padding-<br>ton .. .. .                                                                  | 1st April, 1901 |
| Bequest by Mrs. Henrietta Yates, of Pens-<br>hurst, of £100 and art objects .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                 | Sept., 1904     |
| Number of Volumes in the Library, March<br>31, 1916 .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                         | 67,079          |
| Number of volumes issued 1915-16 .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 212,891         |
| Total number issued since opening ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 5,124,927       |



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1916-17

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF CHELSEA.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

30th Annual Report, 1916-17.

The Public Libraries Committee submit the following brief provisional report on the work of the Library during the year ended 31st March, 1917.

The total number of volumes issued was 230,835, an increase of 17,944 on the previous year. This increase being in all departments is highly satisfactory, particularly under present circumstances, and is almost equal to that noted in the years before the War.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

The number of volumes consulted was 67,115 as against 57,724 last year. The attached statistical table indicates the nature of the books used, and shows the value of this department to the public in many ways. The stock of books now numbers 31,228 volumes.

The number of mounted illustrations filed in this department is now 23,575, and the number lent for use to teachers, artists, and others was 4966.

LENDING DEPARTMENT.

The number of books taken for home reading was 141,385 (last year it was 137,971), a daily average of 498. The percentage of novels taken out was 52.74, or 32.31 of the total books issued in both departments. The number of borrowers' tickets in force on the 31st March, 1917, after revision of the roll, was 6716.

The stock of books available for borrowing is now 35,818 volumes. The number withdrawn as worn out was 435, and of these 148 were replaced. At the annual stocktaking only three books were missing.

A new, revised edition of the Catalogue of Books for Children was published in February. The extended and increasing use made of the Library by young people is a gratifying feature, though it will call for special consideration and the provision of more accommodation on the return of normal times.

THE READING ROOM.

The periodical countings of the persons attending show an average of 956 per day, representing a total on the days open of 297,316. The Sunday attendance averaged 262.

THE CHILDREN'S READING ROOMS.

There is an improvement in the attendance, the total being 14,163 as against 10,264 last year. The total number of books used was 22,335.

The services of voluntary lecturers have again been secured, and the series of instructive and entertaining lantern lectures continued during the winter months. The total attendance at the twelve lectures was 1973, an average of 164. The value of this department to the young people of the Borough is unquestionable, particularly in these days, in affording an opportunity for useful and instructive recreation under the best auspices.

#### DONATIONS.

The Committee continues to receive gifts of books, periodicals, pictures, &c. for the Library, and the donors have been duly thanked.

The most important gift received was a bronze bust of the late Henry James, O.M., by Lieut. F. Derwent Wood, A.R.A., on a marble pedestal bearing the following inscription:-

H E N R Y J A M E S, O.M.,

NOVELIST AND CRITIC.

Born in New York, 15th April, 1843. A lover of both France and England, he became a British Citizen in the first year of the great war. Died at Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, 28th February, 1916. This Bust, modelled from the life in 1914, by Francis Derwent Wood, A. R. A., of Chelsea, was presented to the Public Library, Chelsea, by 150 Chelsea Folk in 1917. : : : : : : : :

This memorial was formally presented on the first anniversary of Mr. James' death, 28th February, 1917, by the Chairman of the Memorial Committee, the Rt. Hon. Augustine Birrell, K.C., M.P., and accepted on behalf of the Borough by the Mayor for placing in the Library.

#### ORGANIZED VISITS.

A number of visits organized by various societies were paid to the Library during the year, more especially for the purpose of seeing the Chelsea collections, and on each occasion the visitors have expressed their pleasure and thanks.

#### SUMMARY STATISTICS.

The annexed table shows the number of volumes issued in each department of the Library and the classes of literature used.

Table showing the classification and number of volumes issued in all departments.

| Class.                                                     | Reference<br>Library. | Lending<br>Library. | Children's<br>Rooms. | Totals. | Per cent. |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Philosophy . . . . .                                       | 520                   | 1131                |                      | 1651    | 0.72      |
| Religion . . . . .                                         | 1361                  | 1266                | 23                   | 2650    | 1.15      |
| Sociology . . . . .                                        | 7091                  | 2090                | 91                   | 9272    | 4.02      |
| Language . . . . .                                         | 8031                  | 417                 | 9                    | 8357    | 3.62      |
| Science . . . . .                                          | 3649                  | 2645                | 200                  | 6494    | 2.82      |
| Useful Arts . . . . .                                      | 3949                  | 2524                | 65                   | 6538    | 2.86      |
| Fine Arts . . . . .                                        | 6362                  | 5714                | 123                  | 12199   | 5.29      |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama, Essays).                        | 6219                  | 10568               | 420                  | 17207   | 7.46      |
| History, Biography, Travels . . .                          | 19708                 | 15378               | 946                  | 36032   | 15.61     |
| Stories for Children . . . . .                             |                       | 24143               | 8901                 | 33044   | 14.32     |
| Prose Fiction . . . . .                                    |                       | 74572               |                      | 74572   | 32.31     |
| Miscellaneous (Magazines,<br>Encyclopaedias, etc.) . . . . | 10225                 | 877                 | 11557                | 22659   | 9.82      |
| Total . . . . .                                            | 67115                 | 141385              | 22685                | 230835  | 100.00    |

# Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea.

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## PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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### THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

1917-18.

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**I**N presenting the following brief report on the work of the Public Library for the year ended March 31st, 1918, the Committee are pleased to state that the appreciation and use of the Library continue to increase. The institution has, undoubtedly, met a great need in these days of stress, both in the way of education and wholesome recreation.

The total number of volumes issued was 242,203, as against 230,835 last year. Air raids and the possibility of them, as well as a slight reduction in the hours of opening, have affected the attendance for reading on the premises, particularly in the Children's Reading Room, at the same time causing a considerable increase in the demand for books for home-reading.

#### LENDING DEPARTMENT.

The work of the Lending Library steadily grows, the number of volumes issued being 158,339, as against 141,385 last year, an increase of 16,954. This is the largest number yet recorded for this department in the history of the institution, and averages 566 per day. The issue of prose-fiction, other than stories for children, was 50 per cent. (or 35.49 of the whole issue) as against 52.74 the previous year, which is extremely low, and shows that the Lending Library is by no means used for recreational reading only. The number of tickets in force on the 31st March was 6,943, as against 6,716 the previous year, the roll of persons entitled to borrow being revised monthly. This department closes for the present at 8 p.m., instead of 9 p.m.

The stock of books available for home-reading now amounts to 36,284 volumes. The preparation and publication of a new edition of the Catalogue of Prose-Fiction afforded an opportunity for a thorough revision of the stock of novels, when a number were discarded because no longer in demand or worn out, leaving the total of this class on the 31st March at 7,656 volumes, or 11 per cent. of the whole stock of the Library of 69,317 volumes.

#### REFERENCE DEPARTMENT.

The use made of the Reference Library continues very satisfactory under all the circumstances of the times, especially when the absence of so many students is taken into account. The number of volumes consulted was 65,129, as against 67,115 last year. The quality of the reading is high, and is mostly for study and research. The number of mounted illustrations filed in this department is now 26,600, and the number borrowed by artists, teachers and others was 4,192. The hours of opening are, temporarily, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays, instead of 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and 6 to 9 p.m. on Sundays during the winter months, instead of 3 to 9 p.m.

#### CHILDREN'S READING ROOM.

There is a falling off in the number of boys and girls attending this room and a corresponding decrease in the volumes issued. The attendance was 11,278 and the books issued 18,735. Last year the attendance numbered 14,163 and the books taken out 22,335. The attendance fluctuated very considerably, as the children were—very properly—kept at home when there was any likelihood of air raids. Owing to the risk of alarm and accident, the Committee decided not to have the usual series of educational lantern lectures. The reduced attendance, however, does not imply that the Library is being less used by young readers. As a matter of fact, the effect has been to induce them to take tickets for the Lending Library, and they are now borrowing books for home-reading to an almost overwhelming extent. It is interesting to note that this experience is not peculiar to Chelsea, but is general throughout the public libraries of the country.

Mr. Claude Clerke, of Elm Park Gardens, presented a large case of stuffed and mounted Indian game birds for the decoration of this room.

## READING ROOM.

It is estimated that the number of persons visiting the Reading Rooms during the year was 262,300, giving a daily average attendance of 860. These statistics are based upon careful periodical countings, which also show that the room is not so greatly used in the morning and afternoon as formerly. These figures do not include Sunday visitors, who numbered 9,800, a daily average of 188. The hours of opening have been curtailed, and on weekdays the rooms are now closed at 9 p.m., instead of 10 p.m.; and on Sundays the hours of opening are 6 to 9 p.m. throughout the year, instead of 3 to 9 p.m.

## GIFTS.

The Committee received with pleasure a number of gifts of books, periodicals, and pictures during the year and duly expressed their thanks to the donors. Among these was a selection of books from the library of the late Mr. Felix Moscheles, of Elm Park Road; and a set of the Methuen facsimile reproductions of the first four folios of Shakespeare's Works, 1623-1664, presented by Mrs. W. J. Gillett in memory of her late husband.

## ROLL OF HONOUR.

The Committee have authorised the Librarian to compile a card index of Chelsea men who have given their lives for their country in the war, with a view to it forming a basis for any local memorial hereafter, should such be contemplated.

TABLE 1, SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION AND NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

| CLASS.                                           | Reference Library. | Lending Library. | Children's Room. | Total. | Per cent. |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--------|-----------|
| Philosophy .....                                 | 386                | 1196             | —                | 1582   | 0·71      |
| Religion .....                                   | 2229               | 1396             | —                | 3625   | 1·62      |
| Sociology .....                                  | 6761               | 1723             | —                | 8484   | 3·79      |
| Language .....                                   | 7681               | 398              | —                | 8079   | 3·62      |
| Science .....                                    | 5158               | 3185             | —                | 8343   | 3·73      |
| Useful Arts .....                                | 3849               | 2574             | —                | 6423   | 2·88      |
| Fine Arts .....                                  | 5878               | 5447             | —                | 11325  | 5·07      |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama, Essays) ..            | 6660               | 10526            | —                | 17186  | 7·69      |
| History, Biography, Travels                      | 16596              | 16259            | —                | 32855  | 14·70     |
| Stories for Children .....                       | —                  | 35073            | —                | 35073  | 15·69     |
| Prose Fiction .....                              | —                  | 79304            | —                | 79304  | 35·49     |
| Miscellaneous (Magazines, Encyclopædias, &c.) .. | 9931               | 1258             | —                | 11189  | 5·01      |
| Children's Room .....                            | —                  | —                | 18735            | 18735  | —         |
| TOTAL .....                                      | 65129              | 158339           | 18735            | 242203 | 100·00    |

TABLE 2, SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE STOCK OF BOOKS BY DEPARTMENTS.

| CLASS.                                              | Reference | Lending. | Children's Room. | Total volumes in Library, 31st Mar., 1918. | Per cent. |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Philosophy .. ..                                    | 363       | 963      | 6                | 1332                                       | 1·92      |
| Religion .. ..                                      | 1656      | 2092     | 29               | 3777                                       | 5·45      |
| Sociology .. ..                                     | 3367      | 2313     | 12               | 5692                                       | 8·21      |
| Language .. ..                                      | 317       | 360      | 19               | 696                                        | 1·00      |
| Science .. ..                                       | 2172      | 1934     | 99               | 4205                                       | 6·07      |
| Useful Arts .. ..                                   | 2152      | 1457     | 22               | 3631                                       | 5·24      |
| Fine Arts .. ..                                     | 2933      | 2186     | 9                | 5128                                       | 7·39      |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama, Essays) ..               | 2869      | 4070     | 89               | 7028                                       | 10·14     |
| History, Biography, Travels .. ..                   | 11476     | 10248    | 182              | 21906                                      | 31·61     |
| Stories for Children ..                             | —         | 2866     | 654              | 3520                                       | 5·08      |
| Prose Fiction .. ..                                 | —         | 7656     | —                | 7656                                       | 11·04     |
| Miscellaneous (Encyclopædias, Magazines, &c.) .. .. | 4414      | 139      | 193              | 4746                                       | 6·85      |
| TOTAL .. ..                                         | 31719     | 36284    | 1314             | 69317                                      | 100·00    |

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# Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY.

### THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

1918-19.

THE Public Libraries' Committee have pleasure in submitting the following brief report upon the results of the working of the Library during the year ended 31st March, 1919.

The total number of volumes issued was 251,153. Last year (1917-18) the numbers were 242,203, and the previous year (1916-17) 230,835. These figures indicate a steady growth in the use made of the institution, especially during the past four years, and prove the wisdom of the policy of maintaining the full service of the Library. Not a few difficulties have had to be overcome, more particularly by reason of frequent changes in the staff and the diminished purchasing power of the limited rate, which has allowed little margin for the purchase of books after ordinary working expenses have been met.

#### LENDING LIBRARY.

The greatest increase was in the issue of books for home reading, the total being 169,786, as against 158,329 last year, an increase of 11,447. These figures exceed any hitherto reported, and are greater by 24,000 than any reached before the war. The average daily issue was 602. The percentage of novels issued (48·78) is comparatively low when all the circumstances are considered, particularly the greater speed in reading light literature and consequent quicker turnover, and more especially how great a relief the perusal of such works has afforded in the past days of anxiety.

The continued use of the Lending Library by children is a gratifying feature, and promises good results in the future, both in the way of forming habits of reading and of using the Library as an aid in the continuation of education on leaving school.

A fourth revised and enlarged edition of the classified Catalogue of Books for Children in this department was printed during the year, and has had a steady sale. Owing to the cost of production, the Committee were compelled to suspend, for the present, the printing of the useful Quarterly List of New Additions.

The number of tickets in force on 31st March was 7,778, an increase of 835 on the previous year. The roll of borrowers is revised monthly.

#### REFERENCE LIBRARY.

The important work of this Department is well maintained, and here also there is an increase in the volume of work done. The number of books consulted was 68,161, as against 65,129 last year, an increase of 3,032. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining mounting paper, the collection of selected illustrations has not been greatly increased during the year. The number is now 27,223, and 5,413 were lent to teachers, artists and others, as against 4,192 the previous year. It is of interest to mention that the collection was used by Colonial soldier-teachers practising in Chelsea schools, and much valued by them.

With the return of students and others to civil life there should be a greater call on the resources of this Department, containing as it does many recent scientific and technical works of great practical value. It is pleasing to note the attendance of overseas soldiers from time to time to consult books on technical subjects. Owing to the previous very small attendance in this Department on Sundays it was not opened during the year, mainly for economical reasons. The Committee, however, hope in time to resume normal hours throughout all the departments.

#### CHILDREN'S READING ROOMS.

Owing to the fear and risk of air raids it was decided to close these rooms during the summer months, June to September; and in the winter the usual course of Lantern Lectures was not resumed. The number of volumes issued in

the rooms during the eight months of opening was 13,206. The issue for the previous (full) year amounted to 18,735. An improvement in the activities of this Department may be looked for with the return of pre-war conditions.

#### READING ROOM.

The usual careful countings of visitors to the Reading Room were made at monthly intervals throughout the year. From the statistics thus obtained it is calculated that 238,572 persons attended, representing a daily average of 846, apart from Sundays, when the attendances totalled 8,763, or a daily average of 168. These figures show a falling off compared with those of the previous year, when the averages were 860 and 188 respectively. It has been found necessary to curtail the number of newspapers, periodicals, and magazines in order to bring the expense within the present means of the institution.

#### GIFTS.

Miss Gertrude Tuckwell has sent a large portrait in oils of Lady Dilke, by Sir Hubert von Herkomer, R.A. The late Sir Charles W. Dilke bequeathed it to Miss Tuckwell, with reversion to the Library. The Committee are grateful to Miss Tuckwell for relinquishing her rights and sending the picture now.

A number of gifts of books, periodicals, and pictures were received during the year, for which the Committee duly expressed their thanks to the donors.

TABLE 1, SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION AND NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

| CLASS.                                           | Reference Library. | Lending Library. | Children's Room. | Total. | Per cent. |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--------|-----------|
| Philosophy .....                                 | 544                | 1238             | —                | 1782   | 0·75      |
| Religion .....                                   | 1774               | 1468             | —                | 3242   | 1·36      |
| Sociology .....                                  | 6951               | 2132             | —                | 9083   | 3·82      |
| Language .....                                   | 6694               | 407              | —                | 7101   | 2·99      |
| Science .....                                    | 4230               | 2980             | —                | 7210   | 3·03      |
| Useful Arts .....                                | 3785               | 2665             | —                | 6450   | 2·71      |
| Fine Arts .....                                  | 5549               | 5089             | —                | 10638  | 4·47      |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama, Essays) .....         | 7703               | 10456            | —                | 18159  | 7·63      |
| History, Biography, Travel .....                 | 15867              | 17576            | —                | 33443  | 14·06     |
| Stories for Children .....                       | —                  | 41586            | —                | 41586  | 17·47     |
| Prose Fiction .....                              | —                  | 82846            | —                | 82846  | 34·82     |
| Miscellaneous (Magazines, Encyclopædias, &c.) .. | 15064              | 1343             | —                | 16407  | 6·89      |
| Children's Room .....                            | —                  | —                | 13206            | 13206  | —         |
| TOTAL .....                                      | 68161              | 169786           | 13206            | 251153 | 100·00    |

TABLE 2, SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE STOCK OF BOOKS BY DEPARTMENTS.

| CLASS.                                              | Reference | Lending. | Children's Room. | Total volumes in Library, 31st Mar., 1919. | Per cent. |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Philosophy .. ..                                    | 371       | 976      | 6                | 1353                                       | 1·92      |
| Religion .. ..                                      | 1664      | 2108     | 29               | 3801                                       | 5·39      |
| Sociology .. ..                                     | 3400      | 2358     | 12               | 5770                                       | 8·19      |
| Language .. ..                                      | 323       | 366      | 19               | 708                                        | 1·00      |
| Science .. ..                                       | 2204      | 1962     | 99               | 4265                                       | 6·05      |
| Useful Arts .. ..                                   | 2190      | 1527     | 23               | 3740                                       | 5·31      |
| Fine Arts .. ..                                     | 2962      | 2201     | 9                | 5172                                       | 7·34      |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama, Essays) ..               | 2911      | 4133     | 88               | 7132                                       | 10·12     |
| History, Biography, Travels .. ..                   | 11579     | 10441    | 182              | 22202                                      | 31·50     |
| Stories for Children ..                             | —         | 3050     | 663              | 3713                                       | 5·27      |
| Prose Fiction .. ..                                 | —         | 7841     | —                | 7841                                       | 11·13     |
| Miscellaneous (Encyclopædias, Magazines, &c.) .. .. | 4439      | 139      | 202              | 4780                                       | 6·78      |
| TOTAL .. ..                                         | 32043     | 37102    | 1332             | 70477                                      | 100·00    |

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Metropolitan  
BOROUGH OF CHELSEA

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Annual Report  
of the  
Committee for Public Libraries  
and Museums  
for the  
Year ending 31st March, 1920

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London :  
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BROMPTON ROAD, S.W.7.

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MAY, 1920.



# Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea.

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## PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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### THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT, 1919-20.

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**I**N presenting their report on the work of the Public Library for the year 1919-20, the Committee are pleased to be able to record continued growth in the use made of the institution.

The total issue of volumes from all departments was 257,547, an increase of 6,394 on the previous year, when the total was 251,153. This result is highly satisfactory in view of the difficulties of the times and the limitation of the Library rate, which necessitated rigid economy in all directions, and more especially in the purchase of books. In spite of their efforts the Committee were unable to keep the working expenses of the Library within the statutory sum allowed. The expenditure during the year in excess of the rate income has been allowed by the Public Libraries Act, 1919, which also removes the limitation of the rate. The final payment of the redemption of the loan charges on the building made during the year also affords relief for the future. With the twentieth and final payment in 1920-21 of £300 to Paddington under the London Government Act, Chelsea will be in unencumbered possession of a properly designed and equipped Library building which originally cost £15,000, and to-day is worth considerably more. The freehold land upon which it is erected—a gift from the late Earl Cadogan, *K.G.*—permits of

addition to the building when necessary. On 31st March, 1920, the Library contained 71,374 volumes.

Though the work of the Library is carried on unostentatiously it holds a high place in the estimation of the Chelsea public, and the institution is firmly established as an important part of the educational and recreational life of the Borough. With the prospect of a reasonable income it is anticipated that its efficiency and growth in public esteem will further increase.

### LENDING LIBRARY.

It was recorded in last year's report that the issues of books for home reading (169,786) exceeded any hitherto reported. These figures have been slightly increased, the total being 170,311, which shows a daily average of 608 as against 602. The percentage of fiction issued was increased from 48.78 to 50. This class of literature is carefully selected for its literary merits, and cannot be characterized as "trashy" nor is any attempt made to provide the latest novels. The percentage of prose fiction, apart from stories for children, is 11 of the whole stock of books. The Lending Library continues to be much used by young readers.

The number of tickets entitling the holder to borrow books for home reading taken up during the year was 4,788, and the number cancelled by lapse of time or other causes, 4,454, leaving the net total in force at the end of the year at 8,112, as against 7,778 last year. Of these 1,353 were extra students' tickets, 50 were for Polytechnic students non-resident in Chelsea, and 305 were extra tickets limited to the borrowing of music.

New editions of the Catalogues of Prose Fiction and of Music and the Literature of Music, were published during the year, advantage being taken to revise the stock of both these sections before publishing the catalogues.

### REFERENCE LIBRARY.

The Reference Library has suffered somewhat from conditions arising from the war, and the Committee are consequently unable to report any increase in the work of this important department,

the total issues being 65,525 volumes as against 68,161 the previous year, or a decrease of 2,636. The large number of changes in the staff necessitated the employment of temporary and unqualified assistants, and this was the main cause of this decrease as they were unable to render the help the public required. The Committee were not, however, in a position to pay the wages the former trained and experienced assistants were able to command elsewhere. Judging by the statistics of the later months of the past year there is a gradual improvement in the use of this Department and its former usefulness will soon be attained.

The number of items added to the collection of mounted illustrations filed in this Department was 2,058, the total now being 29,281. Besides those used on the premises, of which no count is kept, 5,818 were taken away on loan by teachers and others, as against 5,413 the previous year.

#### CHILDREN'S ROOM.

In the Children's Reading Room the return to something approaching normal conditions has had the effect of increasing the attendance and use made of the room. The total attendance was 15,582 and the number of books issued 21,711. It is intended in the autumn to resume the instructive lantern lectures which before the war were so much appreciated by the children and teachers.

#### READING ROOMS.

The attached Table 3 gives the attendances as counted on certain days monthly throughout the year. From the average of 950 per day thus ascertained, it is estimated that 265,525 persons visited the Reading Rooms during the year.

The use made of the Reading Room on Sundays steadily diminishes, the total attendance being 8,026, an average of 157 per Sunday, as against 8,763 and 168 respectively.

#### VISITS TO THE LIBRARY.

Organised visits were paid to the Library by the students of Whitelands College, of the S.W. Polytechnic Physical Training

College, and of the London University School of Librarianship. The Library Assistants' Association also met in the Library.

### GIFTS.

Among the gifts received during the year was a portrait in oils of the lady Lady Dilke, by Mr. John da Costa, of Chelsea, together with original drawings and etchings of the late Sir Charles W. and Lady Dilke, including the original illustrations prepared by Lady Dilke for her work, "The Renaissance of Art in France. These were presented by Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, *J.P.*

The Committee of the Chelsea Memorial to the late Henry James, *O.M.*, presented the unexpended balance of the fund, amounting to £12 1s. 6d., for the purchase of books by or on Henry James for the Reference Library. It will be remembered that the memorial consists of a bronze bust of Henry James by Mr. F. Derwent Wood, *R.A.*, of Chelsea, presented to the Library in February, 1917.

Mr. William Heinemann, the publisher, has sent a set of the late Mr. William De Morgan's works for the Reference Library in memory of the author who was for most of his life identified with Chelsea.

Appended is a list of the donors of books, etc., during the year and to these the Committee duly expressed their thanks.

### THE CHELSEA COLLECTION.

A few additions have been made to the local collection of pictures, etc., during the year. Miss M. A. Dawes presented two Hedderley photographs of Cheyne-walk in pre-Embankment days, a drawing of old Battersea Bridge, by Walter Greaves, and a reproduction of a picture by Cecil Lawson, of Don Saltero's Walk. By request Alderman the Rev. Robert Hudson gave a framed photograph of himself in his robes as Mayor, in continuation of the series of portraits of Mayors. From the Chelsea Commemoration Fund was purchased a water-colour drawing of Old Cheyne House, Upper Cheyne Row (pulled down in 1915), by W. E. Fox, of Manresa-road, and from the same

fund was also purchased a selection of letters and papers by local celebrities.

Some fragments of sixteenth century glass from the Old Church, presented to the Library by the late Mr. H. H. Burnell, were returned to the Church by request and are now suitably embodied in the design of a memorial window in the Church.

### DONORS OF BOOKS.

The following is a list of persons and institutions from whom gifts of books and pamphlets were received during the year :—

The Anglo-Hellenic League ; Mrs. E. Burrell Bagzallay (The Mayoress) ; The Anglo-French Society ; Mr. Edwyn R. Bevan ; Miss Biddulph ; The Canadian Government ; The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace ; The Chelsea Conservative Association ; The Chelsea Health Society ; The Chenil Galleries ; The Co-operative Union, Ltd. ; Mr. W. B. Corner ; Lady Courtney of Penwith ; Mr. Angelo Crespi ; Miss Ursula Cust ; Mr. Randall Davies ; Miss M. A. Dawes ; Miss E. Thornton Down ; Mr. J. L. Dunk ; Mr. H. Stanley Ede ; The Expeditionary Force Canteens (R.A.M.C.) ; Miss Farr ; The Garden Cities and Town Planning Association ; Mrs. E. M. Gillett ; The Greek Bureau of Foreign Information ; Miss C. V. Hall ; Harvard College Museum ; Mr. Wm. Heinemann ; Admiral Sir A. de Horsey, K.C.B. ; Rev. Robert Hudson, M.A. ; Miss Huggins ; Mr. H. L. Joly ; Miss L. W. Kempson ; Brigadier-General C. Lambart ; Lord Latymer ; Mrs. H. M. Leaf ; The Library of Congress, Washington ; City of London Corporation ; Miss G. M. Mackenzie ; Mr. MacNaughton ; Mrs. Sylvain Mayer ; Mr. A. C. Mead, J.P. ; Michigan University ; Sir Alfred Mond, Bart., M.P. ; Mrs. Percy C. Morris ; National Institute for the Blind ; The Agent-General for New South Wales ; Lord Northcliffe ; The Agent-General for the Ontario Government ; Mrs. Dillwyn Parrish ; Miss Spring Rice ; Mr. L. H. Richards ; Miss Roche ; The Rural League ; The Russian Liberation Committee ; Mr. F. Sanguinetti ; Mr. D. R. Sharpe ; Sheffield City Corporation ; Mr. J. E. Smith ; The Smithsonian Institution ; Mr. Hugh F. Spender ; Trinity College of Music, London ; Miss Gertrude Tuckwell ; The United Kingdom Alliance ; United States Bureau of Education ; Miss O. Vinandy ; The Wall Paper Manufacturers, Ltd. ; Mrs. M. E. Watney ; Prof. H. Spencer Wilkinson ; Mr. Edward Willmore ; Miss Zileri.

TABLE 1, SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION AND NUMBER OF VOLUMES ISSUED IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

| CLASS.                                               | Reference Library. | Lending Library. | Children's Room. | Total. | Per cent. |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--------|-----------|
| Philosophy.....                                      | 429                | 1371             | ..               | 1800   | ·76       |
| Religion .....                                       | 1492               | 1394             | ..               | 2886   | 1·23      |
| Sociology .....                                      | 6363               | 2280             | ..               | 8643   | 3·67      |
| Language .....                                       | 7251               | 350              | ..               | 7601   | 3·22      |
| Science .....                                        | 3168               | 3325             | ..               | 6493   | 2·75      |
| Useful Arts .....                                    | 3315               | 3080             | ..               | 6395   | 2·71      |
| Fine Arts .....                                      | 6096               | 5912             | ..               | 12008  | 5·09      |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama, Essays) ..                | 8396               | 9532             | ..               | 17928  | 7·60      |
| History, Biography, Travel.....                      | 17580              | 17490            | ..               | 35070  | 14·87     |
| Stories for Children ..                              | ..                 | 38662            | ..               | 38662  | 16·40     |
| Prose Fiction.....                                   | ..                 | 85901            | ..               | 85901  | 36·42     |
| Miscellaneous (Magazines, Encyclopædias, etc.) ..... | 11435              | 1014             | ..               | 12449  | 5·28      |
| Children's Room ....                                 | ..                 | ..               | 21711            | 21711  | ..        |
| TOTAL .....                                          | 65525              | 170311           | 21711            | 257547 | 100·00    |

TABLE 2 SHOWING THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE STOCK OF BOOKS BY DEPARTMENTS.

| CLASS.                                               | Reference. | Lending. | Children's Room. | Total volumes in Library, 31st March, 1920. | Per cent. |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Philosophy.....                                      | 376        | 986      | 6                | 1368                                        | 1·91      |
| Religion .....                                       | 1684       | 2116     | 29               | 3829                                        | 5·37      |
| Sociology .....                                      | 3451       | 2396     | 12               | 5859                                        | 8·21      |
| Language .....                                       | 338        | 367      | 19               | 724                                         | 1·01      |
| Science .....                                        | 2228       | 1989     | 102              | 4319                                        | 6·04      |
| Useful Arts .....                                    | 2223       | 1582     | 23               | 3828                                        | 5·37      |
| Fine Arts .....                                      | 2998       | 2218     | 9                | 5225                                        | 7·23      |
| Literature (Poetry, Drama, Essays) ...               | 3028       | 4191     | 88               | 7307                                        | 10·24     |
| History, Biography, Travels .....                    | 11667      | 10606    | 182              | 22455                                       | 31·46     |
| Stories for Children ..                              | ..         | 3151     | 664              | 3815                                        | 5·37      |
| Prose Fiction.....                                   | ..         | 7856     | ..               | 7856                                        | 11·00     |
| Miscellaneous (Encyclopædias, Magazines, etc.) ..... | 4454       | 139      | 196              | 4789                                        | 6·70      |
| TOTAL .....                                          | 32447      | 37597    | 1330             | 71374                                       | 100·00    |

## READING ROOMS.

TABLE 3, SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS ENTERING THE ROOMS ON THE DAYS NAMED.

| 1919.                   |                                 |                                 |    |    | Total. |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----|----|--------|
| Saturday, April 12th    | ..                              | (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)              | .. | .. | 949    |
| Monday, May 19th        | ..                              | ( ditto )                       | .. | .. | 868    |
| Tuesday, June 24th      | ..                              | ( ditto )                       | .. | .. | 887    |
| Wednesday, July 31st    | ..                              | (9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5 to 9 p.m.) |    |    | 617    |
| Thursday, August 28th   | ..                              | (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)              | .. | .. | 842    |
| Friday, September 26th  | ..                              | ( ditto )                       | .. | .. | 973    |
| Saturday, October 25th  | ..                              | ( ditto )                       | .. | .. | 1134   |
| Monday, November 17th   | ..                              | ( ditto )                       | .. | .. | 1089   |
| Tuesday, December 15th  | (                               | ditto                           | )  | .. | 994    |
| 1920.                   |                                 |                                 |    |    |        |
| Wednesday, January 14th | (9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5 to 9 p.m.) |                                 |    |    | 867    |
| Thursday, February 19th | (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)              | ..                              | .. |    | 1093   |
| Friday, March 12th      | ..                              | ( ditto )                       | .. | .. | 1090   |

| 1919.                              |    | BANK HOLIDAYS.     |    |    |     |
|------------------------------------|----|--------------------|----|----|-----|
| Easter Monday, April 21st          | .. | (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) | .. |    | 127 |
| Whit Monday, June 9th              | .. | ( ditto )          | .. |    | 140 |
| First Monday in August, August 4th | (  | ditto              | )  | .. | 105 |

## SUNDAY ATTENDANCE.

The Reading Rooms were open on 51 Sundays, the total attendance being 8,026, giving an average of 157 per Sunday (6 to 9 p.m.)

TABLE 4, SHOWING THE TOTAL ANNUAL ISSUE OF VOLUMES FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.

|         |    |    |    |    |    |    |         |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------|
| 1910-11 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 234,899 |
| 1911-12 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 232,427 |
| 1912-13 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 234,856 |
| 1913-14 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 262,713 |
| 1914-15 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 242,748 |
| 1915-16 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 212,891 |
| 1916-17 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 230,835 |
| 1917-18 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 242,203 |
| 1918-19 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 251,153 |
| 1919-20 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 257,547 |

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TOTAL .. .. . 2,402,272

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## Memoranda.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Population of the Borough of Chelsea,<br>Census 1911 .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                        | 66,404          |
| Estimated population, 1919 .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 65,815          |
| Area of the Borough .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 659·6 acres     |
| Rateable Value of the Borough .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                               | £925,353        |
| Public Libraries Acts adopted .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                               | May, 1887       |
| First Commissioners for Public Libraries<br>appointed .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                       | June, 1887      |
| Temporary Library opened in Town Hall ..                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Nov., 1887      |
| Librarian appointed .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Nov., 1887      |
| The late Earl Cadogan, <i>K.G.</i> , gave the free-<br>hold site for the Library and £350 for<br>the purchase of technical books ..                                                                                                                 | Feb., 1888      |
| Charity Commissioners received Deputation<br>organised by the Chelsea Libraries<br>Commissioners, asking for the establish-<br>ment of the South-Western Polytechnic,<br>30th April, 1888, and agreed to the<br>establishment of the Polytechnic .. | 10th May, 1888  |
| The late Rt. Hon. Sir Charles W. Dilke,<br><i>Bart., M.P.</i> , gave £500 for the purchase of<br>books .. .. .                                                                                                                                      | May, 1888       |
| Memorial Stone of the Library laid by the<br>late Countess Cadogan .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                          | 8th Feb., 1890  |
| Library opened by the late Earl Cadogan,<br><i>K.G.</i> .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                     | 21st Jan., 1891 |
| Queen Victoria Gallery of Chelsea Prints and<br>Drawings opened .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                             | 4th Dec., 1899  |
| Public Libraries Commissioners' duties trans-<br>ferred to the Boroughs of Chelsea and<br>Paddington, and the Kensal Town<br>Branch Library transferred to Padding-<br>ton .. .. .                                                                  | 1st April, 1901 |
| Bequest by Mrs. Henrietta Yates, of Pens-<br>hurst, of £100 and art objects .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                 | Sept., 1904     |
| Number of Volumes in the Library, March<br>31st, 1920 .. .. .                                                                                                                                                                                       | 71,374          |
| Number of volumes issued 1919-20 ..                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 257,547         |
| Total number issued since opening .. ..                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 6,106,665       |



